- All the Ultrasound Centres in Government sector and Private sector have been registered by the District Appropriate Authorities.

- The Task Force has been constituted in the State to supervise and monitor the Ultrasound Centres.

- Awareness Camps are being organized to create awareness among the women groups in' all the districts.

- Wide publicity to stop sex selective abortion is being made through hoardings, bus panels and posters etc.

- Female-male ratio is being monitored block-wise through Civil Registration System and the feed back is being give to the blocks with low female-male ratio to take appropriate action.

Suger industries' suggestion on SAP of sugarcane

*47. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar industry has sought an overhaul of cane price regime and to lower the statutory Minimum Cane Price (SMP) fixing it on zonal basis linking to average and not peak recover; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the anomalies pointed out by the industry?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b)As per the present practice, Government have notified a uniform Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for the entire country for sugarcane at Rs. 74.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 0.88 for every 0.1% point rise in the recovery above that level for sugar season 2004-05, compared to Rs. 73.00 per quintal for the sugar season 2003-04 linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%. Requests for different SMPs for different Regions was not agreed to by Government declares one uniform price for the entire country for different agricultural commodities. Government have, however, decided that with effect from 2004-05 sugar season the factory-wise SMP of sugarcane-will be fixed by taking into account the whole season's recovery rate instead of the peak period

recovery rate. In addition, rounding off the fraction of recovery rate will be done as per statistical practice upto one decimal place with effect from 2004-05 sugar season.

Assigning Mc. Kinsey & Company the task of improving functioning of FCI

† SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mc. Kinsey & Company has been assigned the task to give suggestions to bring improvement in the functioning of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the basis for selection of the said organisation and by when the said organisation would submit its report to Government; and

(c) the amount earmarked by Government to be paid to the said organisation to accomplish such task?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Mc. Kinsey & Co. has been assigned the study by the FCI as it is the leading management consultancy company having experience in conducting similar studies for public sector undertakings, State Governments and private sector companies. The study would be carried out in six months.

(c) M/s Mc. Kinsey & Co. would be paid Rs. 4.80 crore by the FCI for this study.

Special trains for festivals

†*51. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are running special trains in view of the growing rush of passengers during the festival season;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.